

A NEW PERUVIAN SPECIES OF SOLANUM, SECT. REGMANDRA

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SOLANUM FERREYRII Ugent, sp. nov.

Planta suffrutescens, inerme, subglabra; caulis tetragonis, ramosus; folia siccitate fusca, elliptica vel obovata, marginibus sinuato-pinnatifidis, superiora subsessilia; panícula longe pedunculata pauciflora, flores violacei vel albi; calycis lobis aequalibus, lineari-oblongis obtusis; corolla rotata; fructus globulares.

Plant unarmed, sparsely pubescent, woody at the base; stem 4-angled, ascending and branched above, ca. 30 cm tall; leaves ovate-elliptic, 3-5 cm long, attenuate at base, sessile, the margins sinuate-pinnatifid, darkened upon drying, lobes 7-9, obtuse, entire; peduncle 3-12 cm long, inflorescence 1-5 flowered, pedicels ca. 2 cm long; calyx lobes equal, 4-5 mm long; corolla rotate, pale violet to white, ca. 15 mm long; berry globose, ca. 9 mm in diameter.

Type: Ramon Ferreyra 1523 (Holotype US 1998785), collected between Nazca and Chala, Dept. Arequipa, Peru, elev. 300-400 m, 20 Oct. 1946. "Habitat arenoso; flores violaceas hasta blanquecinas."

This species is probably most closely related to S. edmonstonei Hook. f., a plant presently known from only its original type locality, Charles Island in the Galapagos Archipelago. It differs from the latter species of Solanum, Sect. Regmandra (Dunal) Ugent, in having sparsely pubescent and 4-angled stems, a smaller calyx with equal-sized lobes, and a corolla with very short apiculate lobes (see Plate I).

Four other species of this section are known from the arid coastal valleys and lomas of south-central Peru. One of these, S. montanum L., has been collected at the type locality of S. ferreyrii near the northern border of the Dept. of Arequipa, whereas the remaining three, S. multifidum Lam., S. murphyi Johnst., and S. phyllanthum Cav., are presently known only from the Depts. of Lima, Ica, Tacna, and the extreme southern districts of the Dept. of Arequipa. All four species are distinct and are not readily confused with either S. ferreyrii or S. edmonstonei. Thus, S. montanum has completely herbaceous stems, small flowers, and entire to coarsely-toothed leaves. It is the only known species of Regmandra which develops from a fleshy, upright, underground stem, or corm. S. multifidum, on the other

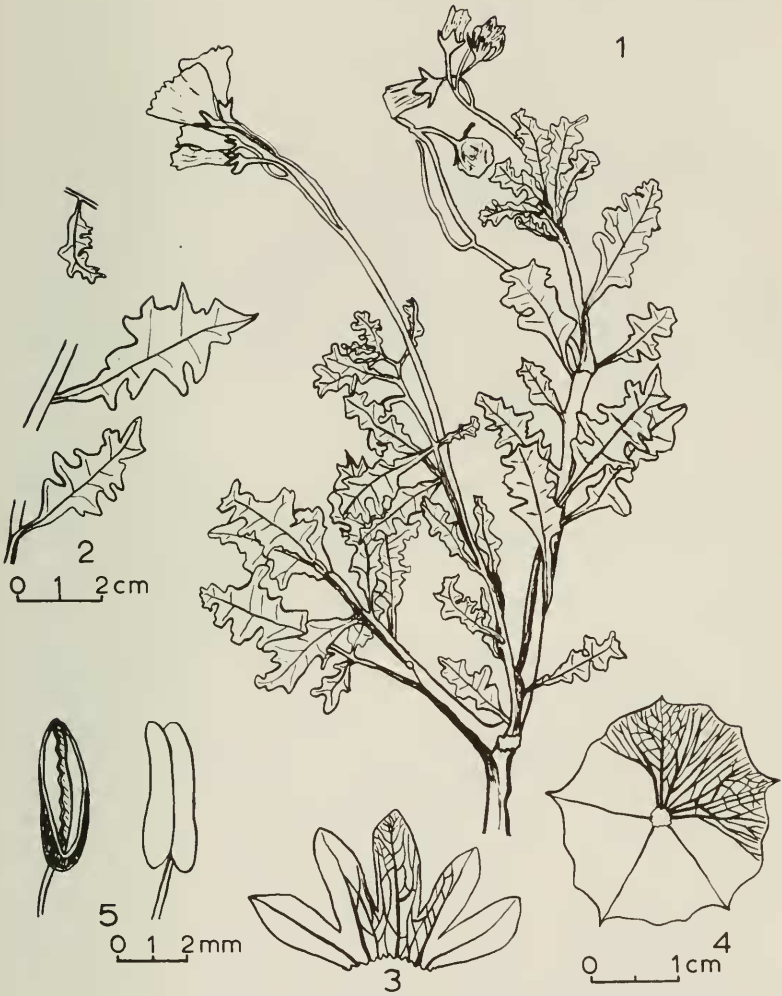


Plate I. Solanum ferreyrii Ugent. 1. Upper portion of plant. 2. Leaves. 3. Calyx. 4. Corolla. 5. Stamens.

hand, differs from S. ferreyrii in having an entirely herbaceous stem, strongly winged petioles, and more deeply incised leaves; whereas S. murphyi has tall, woody stems (up to 1 m high) and very fleshy, pinnatisect leaves. The single remaining Peruvian species, S. phyllanthum, differs from S. ferreyrii in having rhombic-shaped leaves (these coarsely toothed along the margins), very broadly winged petioles, and stems which are suffruticose.

Eight Chilean species comprise the remainder of this small section of Solanum (14 spp. total). The Chilean species are closely related to the Peruvian S. multifidum, S. murphyi, and S. phyllanthum. None are very likely to be mistaken for S. montanum, which has completely herbaceous stems and a cormaceous rootstock; nor are any likely to be confused with either S. edmonstonei or S. ferreyrii, both of which have suffrutescent stems and sinuate-pinnatifid leaves.

It is a pleasure to name this new species for its distinguished collector, Dr. Ramon Ferreyra, Director of the Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, in Lima, Peru. A word of appreciation is also due to Dr. Hugh H. Iltis of the Botany Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, who first brought this interesting group of species to my attention.